

American Indian Baskets

Basket-weaving is one of the oldest known Native American crafts--there are ancient Indian baskets from the Southwest that have been identified by archaeologists as nearly 8000 years old. As with most Native American art, there were originally multiple distinct basketry traditions in North America.

Different tribes used different materials, weaving techniques, basket shapes, and characteristic patterns. Northeast Indian baskets, for example, are traditionally made out of pounded ash splints or braided sweetgrass. [Cherokee](#) and other Southeast Indian baskets are traditionally from bundled pine needles or rivercane wicker. Southwestern Indians make baskets from tightly coiled sumac or willow wood, and Northwest Coast Indians typically weave with cedar bark, swamp grass, and spruce root. Northern Indian tribes like the [Ojibwe](#) and [Dene](#) craft birchbark baskets, and the [Inuit](#) even make whale baleen baskets (though this is a more recent tradition than the American Indian ones). As native people were displaced from their traditional lands and lifestyles, their traditional tribal basketweaving styles started to change somewhat as they adapted to new materials and absorbed the customs of new neighbors, and in places like Oklahoma where many tribes were interred together, fusion styles of basketweaving arose. However, unlike some traditional native crafts, the original diversity of Native American basket styles is still very much evident today.

If you are looking to buy baskets that were actually made by Native Americans--either because it's important to you to have the real thing or because you want to support native people with your purchase--then here is our list of American Indian artists whose basketry is available for sale online. If you have a website of native baskets to add to this list, [let us know](#) We gladly advertise any individual native artist or native-owned art store here free of charge, provided that all baskets were made by tribally recognized American Indian, Inuit, or First Nations artists.

Thank you for your interest in Native American art!

Southwest Indian Wicker and Coil Baskets



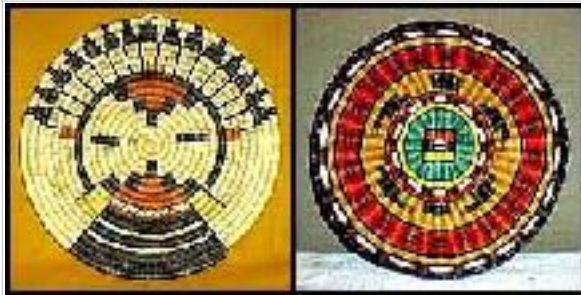
[Southwestern Indian Baskets](#)

Gallery of Navajo wedding baskets and other Southwest coiled basketry by [Navajo](#) and [Hopi](#) Indian weavers.



[Hopi Indian Baskets and Plaques](#)

Coiled Native American baskets and woven wicker plaques by contemporary [Hopi](#) artists.



[Hopi Market Basket Plaques](#)

Another nice selection of [Hopi](#) wicker and coil basket plaques.



[Tohono O'odham Basketweavers Organization](#)

Basketry art for sale online from a cooperative of [Papago](#) Indian artists.

California Indian Twined Baskets



[Northern California Indian Basketry](#)

Twined basket crafts from the [Yurok](#), [Hupa](#), and other Indian tribes of Northern California.



[California Indian Baskets](#)

Antique [Pomo](#) and other California Indian basketry crafts, including trinket baskets, willow burden baskets, and basket hats.

Woodland Indian Birchbark, Splint, and Sweetgrass Baskets



[Canadian First Nations Basket Arts](#)

Birchbark baskets from the [Ojibway](#), [Dene](#), and [Atikamekw](#) tribes.



[Penobscot Brown Ash Basketry](#)

Award-winning ash splint baskets. Email the artist for prices/availability.



[Maine Indian Baskets](#)

Black ash and sweet grass baskets by modern [Penobscot](#) and [Passamaquoddy](#) artists.



[Harraseeket Basketry](#)

Ash splint baskets and fishing creels by another good [Penobscot](#) artist. Her niece is learning traditional basket-making now and has her own site, [Wind Dancer Basketry](#), where you can find good baskets in similar styles.

Southeast Indian Rivercane and Pine Needle Baskets



[Chitimacha River Cane Baskets](#)

Traditional Southeast Indian rivercane baskets by an award-winning [Chitimacha](#) weaver. Email her for availability.



[Great Smokies Cherokee Baskets](#)

Single- and double-wall [Cherokee](#) baskets from the Eastern Cherokee tribal art gallery.

Northwest Coast and Native Alaskan Cedar Bark and Grass Baskets



[West Coast Weaving](#)

Traditional swamp grass baskets and mats by a [Nuu-Chah-Nulth](#) basket-weaver.

Orders by commission. She weaves Northwest Coast basket hats and cloaks, too.



[Alaska Native Artists](#)

Spruce root and seagrass baskets by [Haida](#) and [Aleut](#) weavers. Proceeds benefit an Alaska Native organization.



[Alaskan Native Baskets](#)

Native cedar bark and spruce root baskets woven by a [Tlingit](#) artist.

Mexican and Central American Basketry



[Sierra Madre Indian Baskets](#)

Woven fiber baskets from Mexican and Central American Indian tribes such as the [Tarahumara](#), [Pima](#), and [Seri](#).



[Tarahumara Indian Baskets](#)

Yucca baskets woven by the [Tarahumara](#) people of Mexico.

Proceeds benefit a Baptist mission there.

Indian Quill Baskets



East Coast and Plains Indians were well-known for embroidering their regalia and jewelry with arduous porcupine quillwork, and they also wove the stiff quills into their baskets and birchbark boxes. Some native artists, particularly the [Ojibway](#), still carry this tradition on today. Visit our [quillwork gallery](#) to view Indian quill baskets for sale.


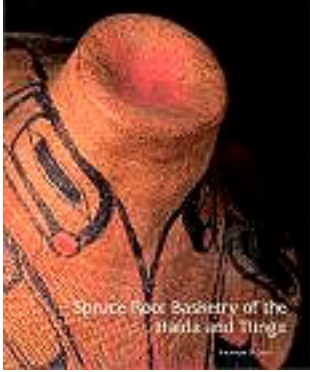
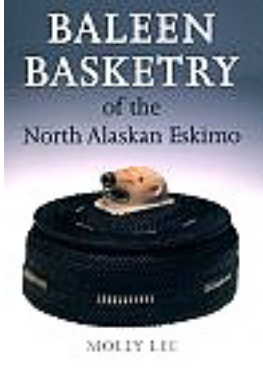
Parfleche



The Plains Indian tribes did not generally do much in the way of basketry arts. Instead, they made containers called *parfleche* out of rawhide (hard, untanned leather) and painted them with traditional pigments. Some of these containers, particularly in the north, were shaped like birchbark baskets, but more often they were in the form of boxes, handbags, or cylindrical quivers. Some Plains artists still carry this tradition on today. Visit our [Indian bags](#) gallery to view parfleche and tanned leather pouches for sale.

Books About Native American Baskets

<p>Southwestern Indian Baskets</p>	<p>The Fine Art of California Indian Basketry</p>	<p>American Indian Basketry</p>	<p>Indian Basketry</p>
<p>Photographs and in-depth exploration of native southwestern coil basketry.</p>	<p>Color photos, art history, and interviews with California basket weavers.</p>	<p>1904 anthropology/art history text with lots of old basket photos.</p>	<p>More recent art history book on Native American basket-making.</p>

		
<p><u>Indian Basket Weaving</u></p>	<p><u>Spruce Root Basketry of the Haida and Tlingit</u></p>	<p><u>Baleen Basketry of the North Alaskan Eskimo</u></p>
<p>Illustrated guide to native basket-weaving by the Navajo School of Indian Basketry.</p>	<p>Photography and descriptions of Northwest Indian baskets and basket garments.</p>	<p>Here's an interesting book on the Inuit basket weaving tradition, which started in the 1920's.</p>

American Indian Basket Links

Other good internet resources for learning about or purchasing Native American baskets include:

- [!\[\]\(a88007b249b36c75dcbde101f514cec3_img.jpg\) The Indian Arts and Crafts Act](#): US law against passing off fake American Indian crafts as genuine.
What constitutes Indian art fraud, and how to report it if you find it.
- [!\[\]\(800628c068083563f747129d8b339031_img.jpg\) Native American Basketry](#): Description and photographs of native coiled, woodsplint, and sweetgrass baskets.
- [!\[\]\(01f5879e654468630e790d983a473ee0_img.jpg\) Native Basketry: Survival, Beauty](#): In-depth articles and pictures of various American Indian basket styles.
- [!\[\]\(ce8b778f402aca455ccdfd070a33a08d_img.jpg\) North American Indian Basketry](#): Article about native basket art by a California Indian weaver.
- [!\[\]\(c4a503502fa8c84efaf3849039d81824_img.jpg\) California Indian Basketweaver Association](#): Native basketry organization working on behalf of California Indian artists.

- [Northwest Native American Basketweavers Association](#): Organization supporting Northwestern Indian artists in the US and Canada.
- [California Indian Basket Museum](#): Online photo gallery of Mission Indian baskets and other indigenous Southwestern basketry.
- [Hopi Baskets](#): Two photo-essays on Hopi Indian basketweaving.
- [Hopi Basketry](#): History, techniques, and photo galleries of Hopi Indian baskets from the Second and Third Mesa.
- [Walk In Beauty](#): Article on the history and traditions of weaving Navajo baskets.
- [California Indian Basketry](#): History and photographs of Native American baskets from the various California tribes.
- [Native American Cultures](#): View our pages for individual Indian tribes, most of which have artistic information.